

REMARKS

Applicants request favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Applicants request consideration of the art cited in the two Information Disclosure Statements filed since issuance of the outstanding Office Action, i.e., on December 12, 2005 and January 19, 2006.

Claims 41-56 are pending in the present application with Claims 41 and 48 being the independent claims.

Claims 41 and 48 have been amended. Applicants submit that support for the amendments can be found in the original disclosure, for example, at least at page 16, lines 2-11. Applicants therefore submit that no new matter has been added.

Claims 41-56 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,845,008 (Kato et al.) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,442,284 (Gustafson et al.). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for the reasons discussed below.

As recited in independent Claim 41, the present invention is directed to an apparatus that tests blocks of image data to determine whether the image data has characteristics of a copy-prohibited image. The apparatus of Claim 41 includes, *inter alia*, the feature of dividing an image into a plurality of blocks based upon a size of a characteristic portion of a copy-prohibited image and a size of the tile of the image. With this feature, when image data is transferred in packets corresponding to a tile of an image, the amount of data in a block to be tested can be minimized, and the time needed to determine whether the block contains the characteristics of a copy-prohibited image can be shortened. Applicants submit that the cited art fails to disclose or suggest at least the

above-mentioned feature and fails to achieve the same results.

Kato et al. discloses an image processing device which can reliably detect documents that may not be copied (i.e., copy-prohibited documents). To do so, the apparatus of Kato et al. detects positioning marks in a region composed of a number of cells and then extracts the region from the image to determine whether a specific pattern exists in the extracted region. See Fig. 24 (A)-(C). Gustafson, on the other hand, discloses detecting the presence of a watermark in an image by calculating variance for each region that constitutes a scanned image. However, neither of those references discloses or suggests dividing an image into blocks based on a size of the tile of the image. While the Examiner may be correct that transferring image data in packets is a well-known technique, the cited art nevertheless fails to disclose or suggest dividing an image into blocks based on a size of a characteristic portion of a copy-prohibited image and a size of a tile of the image. Therefore, the cited art cannot achieve the result of the claimed invention wherein the amount of data in a block for testing is minimized and the time for determining whether it has the characteristics of a copy-prohibited image is shortened.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that the present invention recited in Claim 41 is patentable over the art of record, whether that art is considered individually or taken in combination. Independent Claim 48 is a method claim that recites corresponding features and is patentable for reasons similar to Claim 41. The dependent claims are patentable for at least the same reasons as the independent claims, as well as for the additional features they recite.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the above-mentioned Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowance are requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brian L. Klock', is written over a horizontal line.

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